Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Officer Involved Shooting

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	ugust 11		Bureau/Station/Facility:	F.O.R. III,	, Pico River	a Station	Admin, In	vest?	Hit?
		· injustice		Incident Info	rmation 🥷				
URN:	099-0	5989-15	99-055	Date	August 1	1, 1999	7	ime:	1201 Hours
City or Station:	Р	ico River	a Station	Nature of Incide	nt: Deputy	Involved St	nooting - 1	Hit	
Location	Stewart &	Grey R	oad, Downey						
Location Type (circle one or mo Sackyard Seach Business Freeway Industrial	re):	Lighting (Darknes Daylight Other Street Li		Accidental Armed Person Eleeing Susp Foot Pursuit Gun Take Aw	ect > vay	ore);	Arro Cal Ob On Oth	est Warran I servation e Person L	> Init
Park Parking Lot Residence Rural School Street Other		Clear Cloudy Fog Rain	(circle only one):	Moving Vehic Sniper/Ambur Startle Struggle Invo Traffic Stop Unarmed Per Unintentional	sh Ived		Prior Dete Inma	ctive ite Transpo	rcle only one)
Othor:		Distance	0 to 15 Feet	Vehicle Pursi Warrant Serv			Hou	iine Patroi	
Total # of Shots Fit	red by Deput	y Total # oi	Shots Fired by Suspect -0-	Other:			Aero	Unit?	Canine Unit?
4				Employee Wi	tpossas				a to a state of
Employee #		Name	First NZAleZ First	Name Ricardo Name	M.L.	ShiftTime (clrci EM PM ShiftTime (clrci	(e only one):	Regula	e (circle only one): D Overtime Off Duly e (circle only one):
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in the state of th				n-Employee	Witnesses			4	
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Last Name					First	Name			M.L.
Street Address			City		Zip C	ode	Wo	rk Ph	Home Ph
Last Name					First	Name			M.L
Street Address			City		Zip C	ode	Wo	rk Ph	Home Ph.
\$35-30 to	- Z	13	3.	Supervis	sors			:	- S
Employee #	Last Name		First N		M.I	(circle one or	>		Witness to shooting
Employee #	Last Name	Steel	e First N	John ame	M.I	(circle one or On Duty	during shoot more): luring shoot		Witness to shooting Involved in shooting
200	4.		an .	Watch Ser	rgeant				i wa Vile
Employee #		Name				First Name	77		M.L.
	365.		Zuniga	W. L. D			Thoma	as	
福		Massa		Watch Com		First Name			M.J.
Employee #	Last	Name	Johnson		,	rust neme	Kenne	th	G.

Took.	PSTD Use Only	
SH#_	IAB SH 1264292	

Officer Involved Shooting

URN: 099-05989-1599-055

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Arrival	Date August 11, 1		Arrival Time	1300	Date Submitted 9/2	21/99	Date of Recommendation		
Emplo	yee # Last I	Vame M	annis			First Name Kar	ryn		M.I J.
Emplo	yee # Last h	Name Ki	mble			First NameGA			M.I T.
Emplo	yee # Last N	Vame Ca	ampbell			P** 4	OMAS		M.I
		`	The second	Shoot	ting / Force Inform				
Meth	od					Typ	e of Injury	Body	Part Injured
(AW) (BC) (BI) (BC) (CC) (CC) (CC) (CC) (CC) (CC) (CC	Arwen Baton:(Control) Baton:(Impact) Bodily Fluids Canine Carotid Restraint Choke Hold Control Holds:(Control Control Holds:(Takedow Chemical Chemical Agents (OC S Chemical Agents (Tear Explosives Firearm (Handgun) Firearm (Rifle) Firearm (Rifle) Firearm (Other) Flashbang Flashlight Other Weapon: Edged	ikedown) vn) opray)	(PK) (PS) (PH) (PH) (PO) (RS) (CN) (RH) (TB) (RE) (SP) (SH)	Other Weapon Personal We Personal We Personal We Personal We Personal We Resistance Restraint Der Restraint Der Restraint Der Restraint Der	on: Blunt Object on: Other apon: Feet/Leg: (Kick) apon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep) apon (Hand/Arm) apon (Push) apon (Other) vice (Capture Net) vice (Handcuffs) vice: Hobbie (Legs Only) vice: REACT Bett	(AB) (BR) (BU) (CP) (CO) (DH) (DI) (DB) (FR) (GS) (HB) (LC) (ND) (PA) (PW) (SD) (ST) (UN)	Abrasion Bruise Bum Complaint of Pain Concussion Death Dislocation Dog Bite Fractures Gunshot Human Bite Lacerations Nerve Damage Organ Damage Paralysis Puncture Wound Soft Tissue Damage Sprain/Twists Unconecious	(AD) (AK) (AR) (BK) (BT) (CH) (FE) (FA) (FE) (FG) (GR) (HE) (HE) (FE) (GR) (HE) (HE) (HE) (HE) (HE) (HE) (HE) (HE	Abdomen Ankle Arm Back Buttocks Chest Elbow Face Feet Fingers Genitals Groin Hand Head Hip Internal Knees Leg Nack Shoulder
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FORCE APPLIED (one code per block)

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Brand (Code)	Caliber (Code)	Authorized Weapon? (Y/N)	Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N)	Type of injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
S1	E1	FH		9	-	-	-	-
E1	S1	FH	BR	9	Y	Y	DH	СН
<u></u>								

Officer Involved Shooting Involved Employee Information

URN: ____099-05989-1599-055

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			Involved Employee			
Employee #	Last Name Galvan			First Name Michae	M,I,	
Sex: Race: H	Rank Deputy		Unit Assignment: F.O.R. III, Pico Rivera	Work Assignment (Unit	#, Module, etc.): Unit 155A	
ShiftTime (circle only one): EM PM (Day)	ShiftType (circle only one) Regular Overtime Off Dut		Intoxication/Drug Usage?	Substance Used:	N/A	
Hospital Admission?	Hospital Name: N/A		Coroner Case?	Coroner Case #	Interviewed?	
Hrs of sleep prior to shootin 9 Age Height	Weight:	Plain Clo	circle only one): thes no Vest Raid Jacket w/ Vest thes w/ Vest Uniform no Vest	"B" pants, Green	"C" Uniform (Green Cla Polo Shirt; marked with	
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Certifled with Weapon Use	d? Patrol Certificat	ion?	Certification Unit:	Prior Shootings?	Number of Prior Shootings:	
Field Training Officer Emp #		IRRI A		First Name	M.I.	
Field Training Officer Emp #				First Name	M.1	
	1.00					
Employee #	Last Name			First Name	M,I.	
Sex: Race	Rank		Unit Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit	#, Module, etc.)	
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Range Qualification Date		PPC Qui	lification Date:	Laser Training	Date:	
Certified with Weapon Use	d? Patrol Certificat	lion?	Certification Unit:	Prior Shootings?	Number of Prior Shootings.	
				First Name M.		
Field Training Officer Emp	t Last Name					
Field Training Officer Emp #		*****		First Name	M.I.	
					M.I.	
Field Training Officer Emp #	¥ Last Name		Unit Assignment	First Name	MJ	
Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name		Unit Assignment: Intoxication/Drug Usage?	First Name	MJ	
Field Training Officer Emp # Employee # Sex: Race: ShiftTime (circle only one):	Last Name Last Name Rank ShiftType (circle only one)			First Name First Name Work Assignment (Unit	#, Module, etc.):	
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Officer Involved Shooting Involved Employee Information

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			Involved Employee		
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Certified with Weapon Used?	Patrol Certifica	ition?	Certification Unit:	Prior Shootings? Numb	er of Prior Shootings
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Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name		-6.	First Name	M.I.
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Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name			First Name	MI

	Officer Involved Shooting	URN:	099-05989-1599-055				
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· · · .	Suspect Information			4			

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s 1	Last Name Rojas	3100	First Name Edward	M.I. F.			
	AKA Last Name			First Name		M.I.	
	12 AKA's	Street Address		eth)		State & Zin Code:	
	Sex: M Race: H			City		Siare & 7th I Alie	
	Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Sec	eurity#	Driver's License #		
	Age: 36 D.O.B. 08-01-63	Height: 5'07" Weight: 193	FBI#		Cli#		
	Booking # N/A	Primary Charge: A/187 P.C.		Secondary Charge:	245 P.C.		
	Coroner Case?	Coroner Case #		Intoxication/Drug Usage?	Substance Used:	Substance Used:	
	Armed?	Apprehended?		Mental Illness?	Criminal History?		
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3	Last Name	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		First Name		M.I.	
_	AKA Last Name			First Name		M.I.	
	Sex. Race:	Street Address:		City		State & Zip Code:	
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	Armed?	Apprehended?		Mental Illness?	Criminal History?		
	Vehicle Make			Model:	Year:		

SUPPLEMENTAL NON-EMPLOYEF WITNESSES Los Argeles County Sheriff's Department

Page _6 of 8 Non-Employee Witnesses Last Name First Name Home Ph Street Address Zip Code Work Ph M.I. Last Name First Name Home Ph Zip Code Street Address Work Ph M.I. Last Name First Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address First Name Last Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address First Name Last Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address M.I. First Name Last Name Home Ph Work Ph Street Address Zip Code Last Name First Name M.I. Home Ph Zip Code Work Ph Street Address M.I. First Name Last Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address M.I. First Name Last Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address M.I. First Name Last Name Home Ph Work Ph Street Address Zip Code M.I. First Name Last Name Home Ph Work Ph Zip Code Street Address M.L First Name Last Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address First Name M.L Last Name Zip Code Home Ph Work Ph Street Address M.I. First Name Last Name Home Ph Zip Code Work Ph Street Address M.I. First Name Last Name Work Ph Home Ph Zip Code Street Address First Name Last Name Home Ph Work Ph Zip Code Street Address

SUPPLEM NTAL EMPLOYEE V'ITNESSES Los Argeles County Sheriff's Department

7 of 8 **Employee Witnesses** Last Name Steele First Name John Work Ph F.O.R. III, Norwalk, Unit 40S, Empl. # ---- (562) 863-8711 ---Street Address Zip Code Home Ph F.O.R. III, Norwalk, Unit 43K1, Empl. # ---- (562) 863-8711 Last Name Peralta First Name Sergio Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph F.O.R. III, Pico Rivera, Unit 152A, Empl. # ---- (562) 949-2421 -First Name Ruben Duran Street Address Home Ph Zip Code Work Ph F.O.R. III, Pico Rivera, Unit 155E, Empl. # (562) 949-2421 Marquez Jr. Zip Code Work Ph Street Address Home Ph F.O.R. III, Pico Rivera, Unit 815K, Empl. # ---- (562) 949-2421 --First Name Bruce Lang Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address F.O.R. III, Pico Rivera, Unit 815K, Empl. # -- (562) 949-2421 First Name Keith Edey Work Ph Home Ph Zip Code Street Address F.O.R. III, Aero Bureau, Air 7, Empl. # ---- (562)421-2701 First Name Gerry Dixon Work Ph Home Ph Zip Code Street Address F.O.R. III, Aero Bureau, Air 7, Empl. # - (562) 421-2701 First Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address M.I. First Name Last Name Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph First Name Last Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address Last Name First Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address First Name Last Name Work Ph Home Ph Street Address MJ First Name Last Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address Last Name Work Ph Hame Ph Zip Code Street Address M.L. First Name Last Name Work Ph Home Ph Zip Code Street Address

SUPPLEM' NTAL EMPLOYEE V'ITNESSES Los Argeles County Sheriff's Department

8 of 8 **Employee Witnesses** First Name M.I. Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph M.I. Last Name First Name Home Ph Street Address Zip Code Work Ph M.I. Last Name First Name Home Ph Zip Code Work Ph Street Address First Name MI Last Name Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name M.I. Zip Code Work Ph Street Address Home Ph. M.I. First Name Last Name Work Ph Home Ph. Zip Code Street Address First Name M.I. Last Name Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name MJ Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Last Name First Name M.I. Home Ph Zip Code Work Ph Street Address M.I. First Name Last Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address Last Name First Name MI Street Address Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph M.I. Last Name First Name Zip Code Street Address Work Ph Home Ph First Name M.I. Lasi Name Zip Code Work Ph Hame Ph Street Address M.I. First Name Last Name Work Ph Home Ph Zip Code Street Address M.I. Last Name First Name Work Ph Home Ph Zip Code Street Address M.L. First Name Last Name Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Street Address

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Officer Involved Shooting Form

IAB Investigative Report

Exhibits

- A Pico Rivera Station In-Service, Wednesday, August 11, 1999, Day Shift. Norwalk Station In-Service, Wednesday, August 11, 1999, Day Shift.
- B Audio tape of the initiation of Code 9, Vehicle Pursuit, Surveillance Mode, Foot Pursuit and Deputy Involved Shooting.
- C Map depicting direction suspect traversed in his car.
- D Complaint Report and Supplemental Reports
- E South Gate Police Department's, Traffic Collision Report, File #99-08866 (traffic collision at Southern Avenue and Garfield Avenue).
- F Supplemental Report, Assault with a Deadly Weapon 245 (a)(1) (which occurred at Stewart and Grey Road and Lakewood Boulevard)
- G Drawing depicting point at which vehicle pursuit terminated and apartments located at and Stewart And Grey Road.
- H Photographs (fourteen, two per page) depicting ground and ariel views of the apartments and landscape at and and Stewart and Grey Road and photographs of the gun found in the trash receptacle.
- I Homicide Investigation Book.

Miscellaneous / Documents

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

The summary of this incident is based upon Complaint / Supplementary Reports, Homicide's investigation, tape recording of radio traffic and photographs. This summary does not include interviews of Department members involved in the incident by Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Investigators. The facts of the shooting were obtained by investigators from Homicide Bureau and their written accounts of the incident as told to them by Department personnel involved in the incident.

On August 11, 1999, Lieutenant Karyn Mannis, # Sergeants Gary Kimble, # and Tom Campbell, # of Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB), Deputy Jeff Scroggin, # of the Force Training Unit, and Deputies Harry Drucker, # and Matthew Brady, # of Civil Litigation Unit, were notified that Pico Rivera Station personnel had been involved in the following: The following of a stolen vehicle which was also wanted in a robbery; vehicle pursuit; foot pursuit, and a deputy involved shooting which resulted in the death of the suspect and no injuries to Deputies.

After arriving at the scene of the shooting, Stewart and Grey Road, Downey, IAB Investigators contacted Lieutenant Marilyn Baker of Homicide Bureau. Lieutenant Baker provided preliminary details of the incident as relayed to her by Homicide Investigators, Detective Gerry Biehn and Detective Christopher Brackpool.

The investigation revealed that on August 11, 1999, at approximately 1141 hours, Deputies Michael Galvan, # and Ricardo Gonzalez, # were assigned to Pico Rivera Station, Community Oriented Policing Team, Unit 155A, Day Shift (

Deputy Galvan was driving their Ford, Crown Victoria, marked black and white, Sheriff's Car (Roof top #989). They were both wearing the Department's Class "C" uniform (Class "B" green pants and a green polo shirt, clearly marked as a Deputy Sheriff).

They observed a Male Hispanic (later identified as Edward Rojas, M/H, DOB of 8/01/63) driving a car, described as a Buick, Century, California license # white in color. The car was stopped eastbound, Telegraph Road at Cederdale Road, left turn bay entrance to the southbound 605 Freeway. The Deputies were in the number one lane, slightly to the rear of the suspect's car, alongside of the suspect.

Deputy Gonzalez ran the Buick's license number via the car's Mobil Digital Terminal (MDT). They were advised by Sheriff's Communications Center (SCC) that the vehicle was reported stolen on June 23, 1999, out of Pico Rivera Station. Deputy Gonzalez reported they were "Code 9" (Following the vehicle only) as they entered the southbound 605 Freeway and requested back up from additional Pico Rivera Station Units and/or Norwalk Station Units. He also requested a Sheriff's Helicopter (Air 7 acknowledged with an estimated time of arrival of approximately five minutes).

While in the "Code 9" posture SCC updated the status of the reported stolen car as also wanted in a robbery (Reported by Glendora P.D., Armed Robbery of a gas station on 7/4/99, File #99-02710).

As Galvan/Gonzalez' car (Primary Unit) passed the 105 Freeway they were assisted by Deputy Tony Scaffide, # Norwalk Unit 43K1 (Secondary Unit) and Sergeant John Steele, # Norwalk Unit 40S (Third Unit). With three units in place, Sergeant Steele directed Deputy Scaffide to call out the direction of the suspect's car thus allowing Deputy Galvan to concentrate on driving The deputies continued to follow the suspect's vehicle awaiting Air 7's arrival. The deputies continued their Code 9 (Following posture only) southbound 605 Freeway to the transition, westbound 91 Freeway. Between the 605 Freeway and Paramount Boulevard, Deputy Sergio Peralta, # Unit 152A and Deputy Ruben Duran, # Unit 155E joined the other three units

With Air 7 overhead at approximately Lakewood Boulevard and assisting units in place, Deputies Galvan/Gonzalez attempted to initiate a felony vehicle stop of the suspect's car (approximately one-quarter mile east of Paramount Boulevard) by activating their car's red lights and siren. The suspect's car began to yield and traveled toward the right shoulder, and exited the freeway onto the Paramount Boulevard off-ramp.

The suspect's car traveling at an approximate speed between 25 and 35 M.P.H., turned right against the red traffic signal northbound Paramount Boulevard. When the suspect failed to yield, Deputies Galvan/Gonzalez initiated a pursuit of the suspect's car.

The pursuit was subsequently broadcasted by Air 7.

The suspect's driving became erratic with his speed between 45 and 70+ M.P.H. (at one point his speed was estimated at 90 MPH) occasionally driving in opposing lanes of traffic for southbound Paramount Boulevard. The suspect vehicle turned eastbound Alondra Boulevard a short distance (approximately three hundred yards) turning northbound California Av., making a U-turn through a parking lot, reversing direction of travel to westbound Alondra Boulevard. The suspect's vehicle turned through a gas station's lot to northbound Garfield Avenue.

Between approximately Imperial Highway and Southern Avenue, Sergeant Randy Seymour, #
Norwalk Station's Watch Commander and ground units discussed utilizing the Surveillance Mode
(where deputies discontinue Code 3, red lights and siren, subsequently allowing distance between
pursuing cars and the suspect with an Air Unit monitoring the suspect's direction.) The Surveillance
Mode was ordered by Sergeant Randy Seymour at the approximate time when the suspect reached the
intersection of Garfield Avenue and Southern Avenue. At that point the pursuing deputies were
assisted by Deputies Gilbert Marquez, # Pico Rivera Station Unit
815K.

The suspect's vehicle collided with a civilian motorist (Exhibit E). As Deputies Galvan /Gonzalez arrived at the collision scene, Deputy Galvan stopped approximately 10 to 15 feet behind the suspect's car. The suspect deliberately backed his vehicle into the right front quarter panel of their car.

The suspect drove eastbound Southern Avenue, evading deputies and continued eastbound Stewart and Grey Road (Southern Avenue and Stewart and Grey Road are one of the same, depending on the city.) While approaching Lakewood Boulevard the suspect's vehicle abruptly stopped in traffic, then pushed a civilian motorist's car out of the way, backed up violently striking and driving over the center medium, reversed his direction of travel to now westbound Stewart and Grey Road (Exhibit F). The collision with the medium curb caused the suspect's left rear tire to go flat.

The suspect drove a short distance to Stewart and Grey Road where he collided with a parked car before abandoning his car through the front passenger's door. The suspect ran in a northerly direction on the driveway adjacent to the east side apartment complex, to the carport area at the rear of the complex. Deputies Galvan, Gonzalez, Scaffide, Peralta, Marquez, Lang and Sergeant Steele gave chase on foot. (Exhibit H, photographs)

Deputy Marquez was initially the first deputy in the foot pursuit, immediately followed by Deputy Galvan, Sergeant Steele, and the other deputies as they ran in a northerly direction on the driveway adjacent to the east side of the apartment complex.

Deputy Galvan passed Deputy Marquez as they approached the northeast corner of the complex. As he approached the corner, the suspect turned the corner in a westerly direction out of their view. As Deputy Galvan approached the corner, he veered to his right taking a better angle to see if the Suspect had stopped or continued running. He saw that the suspect had continued running in a northwesterly direction toward a cinder block wall. As he continued his chase and turned the corner, he observed the suspect reach into his right rear pant's pocket and remove an object. He heard Deputy Marquez say, "He's got a gun."

Deputy Marquez said while running in a northerly direction approaching the corner of the apartment complex, he observed the suspect reach into his waist band area and remove a dull, chrome, hand gun, simultaneously hearing Air 7 say over his handheld radio that the suspect was reaching into his waist band. Deputy Marquez yelled that the suspect had a gun to the other deputies. Both Deputies Galvan and Marquez ordered the suspect to stop.

Deputy Galvan doubted what he heard and what he had seen until he saw the suspect laying on the wall holding a gun in his right hand. The suspect was laying on the wall (head to the south, feet toward the north) north of the trash receptacle on the east side of wall behind the address at Stewart and Grey Road.

Deputy Lang believed that Deputies Galvan and Marquez were close enough to the suspect at that point that they were attempting to pull the suspect from the wall. Deputies Gonzalez and Scaffide and Sergeant Steele were further behind in the chase as they each slowed down as they approached the corner of the apartment complex.

The suspect went over the wall and fell onto the southern lid of the trash receptacle located on the west side of the wall and was temporarily out of the Deputies' view. Deputy Galvan positioned himself north of the trash receptacle (located on the east side of the wall). Deputy Marquez positioned himself south of the trash receptacle and Deputy Peralta was further south along the wall approximately thirty feet south of the trash receptacle.

Deputy Galvan peeked over the wall (using his left forearm on top of the wall as leverage holding his Beretta, duty weapon, in his right hand) and saw the suspect, approximately two to three feet in front of the trash receptacle on the west side of the wall, pointing his gun at Deputy Galvan. Deputy Galvan fearing for his life and for the lives of his partners, fired 4 shots and immediately climbed down from the wall.

Deputy Galvan waited a few seconds, looked over the wall a second time, and observed the suspect laying on the ground.

Deputies Galvan, Marquez, and Peralta climbed over the wall. Deputy Galvan was assisted in handcuffing the suspect by Deputy Duran (Deputy Duran had driven his patrol car to the first driveway west of the address, to Stewart and Grey Road, and drove north to the apartment complex's rear parking area where he observed the suspect laying on the ground). Deputy Marquez and Sergcant Steele summoned paramedics for the suspect's injuries.

Downey Fire Department (Engine Company 61) and Paramedics (Squad 641) under the direction of Captain English arrived and began emergency medical treatment. The suspect was transported by ambulance to St. Francis Medical Center. The suspect was treated by Doctor Park and the Emergency Room Staff. Mr Rojas was pronounced dead by Dr. park at 1257 hours.

Four expended 9mm casings were recovered at the scene. One round struck an interior carport wall that was located several feet behind the suspect. Two rounds struck the suspect and one round was never recovered. The suspect's gun was located inside an adjacent trash receptacle.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE BUREAU OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS • SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION.

GIL GARCETTI • District Attorney
ROBERT P. HEFLIN • Chief Deputy District Attorney
MICHAEL E. TRANBARGER • Assistant District Attorney

ALLEN D. FIELD . Director

July 5, 2000

Captain Frank Merriman
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Homicide Bureau
5747 Rickenbacker Road
Los Angeles, California 90040

Dear Captain Merriman:

Re: S.I.D. File No: 100-8663/00-0161

L.A.S.D. File No: 099-05989-1599-055

The Special Investigations Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the August 11, 1999 fatal shooting of Edward Rojas by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Galvan. Based on the information submitted to this office, there is insufficient evidence to prove that Deputy Galvan acted unlawfully or unreasonably.

The following analysis is based upon a 387-page report prepared by the los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Homicide Bureau and an examination of photographs taken at the scene of the shooting and photographs taken during the autopsy. At the request of the Special Investigations Division, two law enforcement witnesses were reinterviewed in order to obtain more detailed information. A tape of communications between deputies in a helicopter and deputies on the ground before and after the shooting was also provided. Members of this office have conducted no independent investigation.

FACTUAL SUMMARY

On August 11, 1999 at 11:43 A.M. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies Michael Galvan and Richard Gonzalez were in uniform in a marked black and white vehicle eastbound on Telegraph Road approaching the 605 Freeway in the city of Pico Rivera. In the next lane of traffic also traveling eastbound was a white Buick Century, California License # Deputy Galvan ran the license plate number through their computer terminal and determined that the car had been reported stolen to the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station on June 23, 1999. The deputies re-checked the stolen status of the Buick as it

entered the southbound 605 Freeway at Telegraph Road. They followed the Buick onto the 605 Freeway. The deputies received a broadcast that the Buick had been identified as the get-away car in an armed robbery subsequent to its being reported stolen. The deputies requested assistance in pulling over the Buick. The driver and sole occupant of the Buick was Edward Rojas.

The Buick continued southbound on the 605 Freeway, then entered the westbound 91 Freeway. Deputies Galvan and Gonzalez were eventually joined by two additional sheriff's patrol cars, several California Highway Patrol cars and a helicopter. At the Paramount Boulevard off-ramp deputies Galvan and Gonzalez activated their red lights and siren in order to pull over the Buick. Rojas responded by increasing his speed getting off the freeway at Paramount Boulevard and proceeding northbound on Paramount Boulevard.

The Buick continued to attempt to evade the deputies while driving on surface streets in the cities of South Gate and Downey, still being pursued by several sheriff's radio cars and the sheriff's helicopter. The Buick made a rapid right turn from Garfield Avenue to eastbound Southern Avenue in the city of South Gate. The Buick then collided with another vehicle coming westbound on Southern Avenue.

After the collision the Buick came to a stop and the deputies began to position their vehicles to try to take Mr. Rojas into custody. At that point the Buick backed up rapidly and crashed into the patrol car with Galvan and Gonzalez inside. The Buick then sped away eastbound on Southern Avenue, which turns into Stewart and Gray Road. Either the collisions or driving over the median caused the rear right tire of the Buick to virtually disintegrate.

The Buick came to a halt in front of Stewart and Gray Road in the City of Pico Rivera. Mr. Rojas got out of the Buick and ran up a driveway near Stewart and Gray Road, followed by numerous deputies. Deputies Galvan and Gonzalez as well as Deputy Gilbert Marquez, Deputy Bruce Lange and Sergeant John Steele were involved in the foot pursuit. The deputies chased Mr. Rojas northbound up the driveway, then westbound through a carport to a block wall that separates and Stewart and Gray Road.

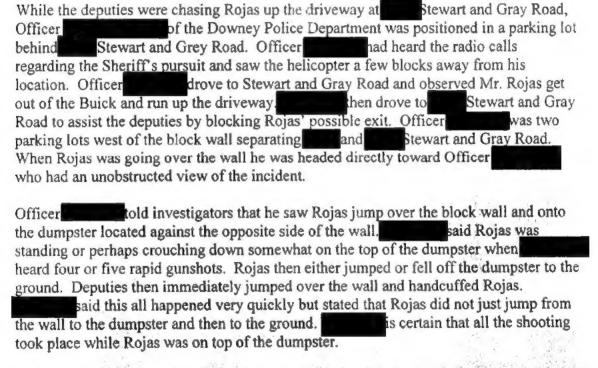
As Rojas ran up the driveway, Deputies Galvan and Marquez saw Mr. Rojas remove as handgun from his right rear pocket. Rojas climbed rapidly over the wall with the gun in his right hand. At that point the deputies lost sight of him. Deputy Galvan was the first to reach the wall. Galvan was so close to Rojas that he believed he would catch him. before Rojas made it over the wall.

Galvan told investigators that when he reached the wall he took a "quick peek" over the block wall. He saw Rojas standing a few feet to the left of a dumpster, which was against the opposite side of the wall. According to Galvan, Rojas was pointing his gun at him.

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Deputy Galvan pointed his gun over the wall and fired four rounds at Rojas, then ducked down. When he looked over the wall again he saw Rojas lying on the ground. The group of deputies then jumped over the wall and handcuffed Rojas. The other deputies involved in the foot pursuit confirmed this sequence of events. They all stated they were behind Galvan and could not see Mr. Rojas when Galvan was firing at him.

During the period leading up to and during the foot pursuit, the shooting, and the events immediately afterward, the deputies on the ground were being assisted by a sheriff's helicopter. Deputy Edey was acting as the observer in the helicopter. He told investigators that he saw Mr. Rojas get out of the Buick and run up the driveway with the deputies in pursuit. Edey observed a shiny object in Rojas' hand. He saw Rojas "hit" the wall and begin to climb over it. When circling overhead, he saw Rojas either jumping or falling off the dumpster. Rojas fell to the ground and was immediately handcuffed by deputies. Edey did not know there had been a shooting at the time.



Mr. Rojas was transported to St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood, where he was pronounced dead. Dr. Solomon Riley performed an autopsy on August 14, 1999. The cause of death was listed as multiple gunshots. One round penetrated Mr. Rojas' right wrist and exited. A second gunshot wound struck Rojas' chest, proceeding from front to back with an upward trajectory. Dr. Riley believes that the through and through round to Mr. Rojas' wrist may have continued and also caused the chest wound. A third round struck Mr. Rojas at the top of the back, proceeding downward and back to front. A toxicology screen showed Mr. Rojas had both cocaine and morphine in his blood at the time of his death.

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A nine-millimeter Detonics pistol was found inside the dumpster. There was no magazine in the pistol. However, there was a round in the chamber. Four nine-millimeter casings were recovered at the scene, two on each side of the block wall. All were matched to Deputy Galvan's department issued nine-millimeter Beretta by sheriff's firearms expert Patricia Fant.

Mr. Rojas had an extensive criminal history, including

According to the law in the State of California, the use of deadly force in self-defense or in the defense of another is justifiable if the person claiming the right to use self-defense actually and reasonably believed (1) that he or she, or the person who he or she was defending, was in imminent danger of death or great bodily injury; and (2) that it was necessary under the circumstances to use deadly force to avoid such imminent death or great bodily injury. CALJIC 5.12.

When Deputy Galvan was chasing Mr. Rojas toward the block wall he was aware of a number of crucial facts: (1) Mr. Rojas had a gun in his right hand; (2) Mr. Rojas was a logical suspect in a recent armed robbery, (3) Mr. Rojas was engaged in a lengthy and dangerous pursuit during which he had rammed a Sheriff's patrol car; and (4) Mr. Rojas was about to disappear over the wall, making him much more dangerous to pursuing deputies.

Clearly the events as described by Deputy Galvan and his fellow deputies is in stark contrast to the events as described by Officer and, in part, by helicopter observer Edey was certain that Rojas was atop the dumpster when shot, while Galvan stated that Rojas was standing on the ground pear the dumpster, pointing a gun directly at him at the time of the shooting. While version of the events casts some doubt on Galvan's statement of where Rojas was when he pointed his gun at Galvan, it does not alter our belief that Deputy Galvan reasonably feared for his safety as well as the safety of his fellow deputies. Clearly Rojas was armed with a loaded nine-millimeter handgun, and there is no direct evidence which would lead us to disbelieve Galvan's statement that Rojas was seen pointing the gun in his direction.

We realize that Galvan was thrust into a harrowing, life threatening situation. We understand that he had to make a split second decision, and appreciate the fact that his observations were directly affected by the threat he perceived. Simply put, whether Rojas was on top of the dumpster when Galvan shot at him, or on the ground, we still believe that Galvan was reasonable in believing that his life was in immediate jeopardy.

Having concluded that Deputy Galvan acted lawfully in self-defense, we are closing our file and will take no further action in this matter.

Very truly yours,

GIL GARCETTI District Attorney

JOHN FRANCIS GILLIGAN

Deputy District Attorney

(213) 974-9905

Ву

c: Deputy Galvan